

NEVADA RAC RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

ELKO, NV

California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

Hunter Exit on Interstate 80, Elko, NV

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BLM Official: Amy Lueders, BLM Associate State Director  
BLM Official: Doran Sanchez, BLM Nevada Chief of Communications  
Forest Service Official: Scott Lamoreux, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
BLM Recreation Program: Barb Keleher, Nevada State Office  
Notetaker: Joanne Maluotoga, Nevada State Office

Recreation Subcommittee Members Present: John Hiatt, Chairperson; Skip Canfield; Will Roger Peterson; Julie Gleason

Presenters:

Daniel Morris, Recreation Staff Officer, Austin Tonopah Ranger District

Nancy Taylor, Recreation Staff Officer, Mountain City Ranger District

Other Agency Representatives: Ron Wenker, Ken Miller, Mary Jo Rugwell, Patrick Gubbins, David Jamiel, Gary Koy.

- I. Call to Order. Doran Sanchez called the meeting to order at 08:00 am, with self-introduction by all the attendees.

Doran Sanchez stated that we need to have a majority of members present to vote on the fee proposals. Julie Gleason, a member of the Mo So RAC who was present, was found eligible and voted in by the member's presence to be an official member of the RecRAC. This provided the majority the Subcommittee needed to vote on the fee proposals.

- II. Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest Scott Lamoreux gave a presentation of the Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest Developed Recreation Program. He said most of the campgrounds are operated by private concessionaires with only approximately 10% of the gross revenue going to the FS.
- III. Bob Scott Campground. Dan Morris gave a presentation on the proposal of establishing new fees at Bob Scott Campground at \$10. The proposed fee is \$10. per site. The reasons for the fee are to cover operations and maintenance costs. Dan said they did not receive any negative written comments or telephone calls on the proposed fee hike.

The floor opened for discussion and the key points discussed were:

- The standard operating procedure is collecting fees. Could a donation/contribution system be set up?
- The cost of water service is included in the campground fees.
- Concerns were raised if the facility was visible from the highway. This may draw increased “rest stop” patronage, incurring additional water costs - reply was that the facility is not visible from the highway.
- The consensus of the group was in favor of creating the fee.
- There was also discussion of charging day use fees versus the full \$10

IV. Wild Horse Crossing Campground. Nancy Taylor gave a presentation proposing to reduce fees at the Wild Horse Crossing Campground from \$8 to \$5 since there is no longer an operating water system. The campground is good for fishing, and there are two vault toilets (non-flush). The campground has good access to many recreational activities with over 20 sites including RV sites. There is no electricity. The location is approximately 71 miles North of Elko. Many travelers stop there. There were no written or verbal public comments received.

The floor opened for discussion and the key points discussed were:

- If iron bacteria is the only concern, is it a fairly simple fix? Reply was they received only \$1600 in site use fees, which implicates low usage, or some folks may not pay their fees because it is only on the honor system.
- Were complaints received when the water system was shut down? The Forest Service did receive one verbal comment at the campground.
- Inquiry on the floor asking if the water could be retested - reply was if the retesting costs would be worthwhile but the income is only \$1600.
- Recommendation if a camp host would help ensure everyone pays their fees; however, reduction of staff does not allow for that service. They are currently surviving on volunteer programs to clean and upkeep the campground.
- An inquiry on the floor asking if there is any type of accountability system for collecting park usage, perhaps installing some kind of automatic sensor that can provide a record of accountability.

The Recreation Subcommittee members voted to approve the proposed Forest Service fees. The recommendation will be presented to the North Eastern Great Basin RAC for their final recommendation on Friday morning.

V. Discussion on recruiting additional members to Recreation Subcommittee. The floor opened for discussion and the key points discussed were:

- Comment made that there is a need to recruit more Recreation Subcommittee members and to elect new officers.
- The BLM established the RACs, and subcommittee has a mandate to have geographic accountability and additional flexibility to better inform the Tri-RAC with proposed recommendations.
- Members of the Tri-RAC will comprise the Recreation Subcommittee though the group may want to call on outside expertise when necessary.

Motion on the floor. Will Roger Peterson made a motion that the Recreation Subcommittee can request from agencies or recruit temporary non-voting volunteers to assist on the Recreation Subcommittee for special projects. The motion was second and approved.

VI. Red Rock NCA Update on Proposed Fee Increase:

Southern Nevada District Office Manager, Mary Jo Rugwell, announced that the business plan for the Red Rock NCA is being revised to incorporate public comments. The Office is planning to forward the response to comments to NSO for review by mid December. She said they want to put together a presentation to present to the Rec-RAC in February 2010. They conducted two public meetings; however, they did not have a large turnout. She said they did receive several written comments on various topics.

Mary Jo provided the group an update on the Red Rock (RR) NCA complex. She said the exhibit contractors intend to start work early December and complete within four months. The goal is to have the entire complex open by Spring 2010. She also announced that there will be interpreter exhibits of fire, earth, water and air, and envisions the center to be a great educational experience. Mary Jo said the Mojave Discovery Center will commence shortly after the completion of this facility.

The floor opened for discussion and the key points discussed were:

- A comment was made that the complex is yet another reason why there has to be an established Rec-RAC quorum to assist with roll out of these new facilities.
- A comment was made that the Red Rock Canyon Business Plan listed an administrative cap at 15%. Reply was the Plan stated that 19% are spent to collect the fees. The Red Rock Canyon staff has been working closely with all the partners to analyze the matter. Especially the implication that all users should pay fee needs to be reworded for clarity - all these comments were submitted via written documentation.
- The date for next Recreation Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at the new Red Rock visitor center. Plan for an all day meeting which will include a tour of the center.

- The plan is to present the findings of the Recreation Subcommittee meeting at the February MOSO RAC meeting.

VII. The California National Trail Interpretive Center

The Trail Center Manager, David Jamiel, informed the group of the ongoing construction projects. The goal is to make the building accessible to the public by summer 2010. Legislation to establish the Trail Center was signed in February 1997. Since then the BLM has had an active outreach program. Elko County and the City of Elko have been huge supporters of the trail center. The phase two appropriations were recently approved for \$1.5 million. In 2010, the appropriation for \$2 million is for phase III for working on the west side of the building. The local Shoshone tribe has helped to raise cultural awareness. Currently, the staff consists of two full time employees, one Americorps employee and alot of volunteer help. The issue of establishing fees will be challenging. The barrier is the mission of the building - to perpetuate the history, and not treat like “Disneyland.” The intent is to keep the center here for 60 + years, leaving a legacy for the generations to come. We need to make it right the first time - the center established a volunteer newsletter to keep the volunteers updated as the roll out continues. The presentation concluded with a quick tour of the CA facility.

VIII. Open Public Comment Period. There was no public present.

IX. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm

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Submitted by: Joanne Maluotoga, BLM State Director Staff Assistant